HM? YES, IT'S OUR 7TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY.

THAT MEANS, YOU'VE ENJOYED 7 YEARS WORTH OF RELEASES, MORE OR LESS.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SPARE JUUUUST A FEW MINUTES TO COME AND TELL US ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE READING WHAT YOU JUST READ?

It's only a few keys and clicks away_

We would really appreciate it.

- Heels Team 2009~2016

www.stilettoheelsteam.net
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TORCH SONG ECOLOGY

SONG # 5

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SONG
#5

I LIKE YOU!
OH.
SORRY.

That was first time I saw
anyone wave off another person's confession like it was nothing
...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
MAYBE
MAYBE?
OH! THAT'S RIGHT... YOU!
...
THAT WAS IT IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME
HOW DO YOU READ THAT?
浦武 迪
YOU'RE IN MY CLASS, AREN'T YOU?
...
Are you a gangster?

SUSUMU.
OH MAN! I FEEL SO MUCH BETTER!
All alone...
EXCUSE ME, BUT... THERE'S SOMEONE OVER THERE WHO DOESN'T FEEL ANY BETTER...
HUH? YEAH. TOO BAD FOR HER!
LET'S GO!
It was three days after high school started
That day, we started talking to each other and walking home together as if nothing had happened.
I'm basically a gloomy person who wouldn't start talking to a stranger
while "Shun Takatou" was the complete opposite
SUU-SU-SU..
?
IT'S FREAKING HARD TO SAY! WHAT THE HELL! I'LL JUST CALL YOU SU.

YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND, SU?
YEAH.
.. RIGHT.
It took easily a minute and a half for him to start calling me by a nickname that for many years..
..only my family used with me
Even though it took one day for the gossip to spread through our class,
and two days to get around to every-body in our grade..
..it took me two months to realize that when it came to professing her love, "Sono Kusaka" was a habitual offender

And it took three years and ten months
until "death do us part"
HEY.. SU...
WHICH GIRL DO YOU LIKE HERE?
HM?
OUT OF ALL...
NO. THE WHOLE..
..SCHOOL.
HERE, LIKE.. ..FROM CLASS?
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY? HE'S ACTING LIKE A LITTLE KID
ALL OF THEM?
..THE GIRLS HERE
WHY?
COME ON WHO?

BASED ON LOOKS ONLY..
--
DON'T LIE WHO IS IT? TELL ME I BET THERE'S ONE YOU THINK IS CUTE! TELL ME!
DUNNO.
GOING BY LOOKS ONLY, OK?
. UH-HUH.
KAWA-MATO, I GUESS FROM CLASS 2
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HAHA! YOU'RE WEIRD
I DON'T KNOW!
I TOLD YOU IT'S JUST HER LOOKS
THE TYPE THAT LOOKS CUTE TO EVERYONE HUH?
ME?
ANYONE EXCEPT SONO KUSAKA!
Hehe

...WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?
DUDE, SHE'S STUCK TO THERE LIKE GLUE.
OYE. OYE. OYE. OYE.
HA HA HA HA!
Buh-bye
Bye bye!
...AS USUAL
GO HOME...
SPLASH
UH, IT'S RAIN-ING?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
SOB...
SWOOP
!

SHUN ALREADY...
...
...LEFT.
...HIS SHOES ARE STILL HERE.
BUT...
...
NOPE.
YOU'RE NOT WITH HIM?
WHAT'S UP WITH HER? ANYONE SHOULD GET IT
DENSE OR DOING IT PURPOSE?
Blah
Blah
SCARY...
OH, KUSKA.
EW, IS SHE AT IT AGAIN?

slosh
slosh
I'd rather she wouldn't give up
Kya ha ha
IT'S BECOME LIKE A SORT OF SEASONAL REMINDER, NASN'T IT?
SHE'S TOTALLY BUGGING TAKATOU
CREEP!
DUDE... YOU ARE WALKING SO SLOW IN THE RAIN..
WELL, I FELT LIKE I'D GET MORE WET BECAUSE IF I RUN, EVEN MORE WATER WOULD SPLASH ALL OVER ME
BUT WHEN YOU WALK, YOU'LL BE SOAKING IN THE RAIN FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES TO GET HERE
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
...
trot
trot
trot
trot

drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
splash
splash
splash
splash
splash
splash
BUT DOESN'T IT FEEL BETTER THIS WAY FOR SOME REASON?
Right?
I JUST DON'T CARE ANYMORE...
DUNNO WHY
HA HA HA
I BET YOU'LL CATCH A COLD AND WHILE YOU'RE HOME ASLEEP TOMORROW
KUSAKA WILL COME AND VISIT YOU
DASH!
HEY!

SLAM
THAT AIN'T NO JOKE
YO! DID YOUR FEVER DIE DOWN?
COUGH!
HEY, DON'T COUGH ON ME
IT CAME
HUH? what?
HER
SERI-OUSLY?
Yikes!
MORE LIKE MY MOM SAW HER PACING IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE...
...AND WENT TO TALK TO HER.

IS SHUN-KUN WELL?
OH! UM, I KNOW HE'S NOT
JUST HAPPENED TO PASS BY...
OH, NO I...
AND I REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD TODAY OFF OF SCHOOL
HOPE HE GETS WELL
UM, I HOPE HE GETS WELL!
KUSAKA'S HOUSE AND YOURS ARE IN...
OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS
Glad she could make it.
WH
AM

YOU KNOW... LIKE... YOU'RE DOING FOR A GOOD CAUSE?
Tis the season
...
OH! PLUS WINTER BREAK STARTS TOMORROW ANYWAY?
WHY NOT JUST TAKE IT?
...
Merry Christmas
From Sono♥
SHE PROBABLY WENT HOME ALREADY
I'LL HAVE IT DELIVERED
...OH.
YOU'RE NOT OPENING IT? LET'S SEE WHAT'S INSIDE
GIVING IT BACK
HUH?
That winter, it snowed up a storm

HEY, SHUN!
YOU'RE IN A DIFFERENT CLASS!
Sigh~
ARE YOU THAT HAPPY TO GET RID OF ME, MISTER SU?
HUH? NO NO
FROM KUSAKA
THAT'S WHO!
OH
JUST "OH"?
SO WHAT ABOUT US?
ALL RIGHT, SU!
YEAH?
KAWAMATO WILL BE THERE!

KAWA-MOTO?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU HAD A CRUSH ON KAWAMOTO?
HUH?
SECOND YEAR STUDENTS GET A YEAR-END TRIP TOO. GOOD FOR YOU!
WAIT ...OH!
Huh? Ooh, look!
giggle giggle
Noa Kawamoto
N-
NO!!
IT'S NOT, UH UM...
...TRUE
UM...
UH, IT REALLY ISN'T!!
...
It-
It-
It's not true
I'M SORRY
bow

YEAH... I SAID I'M SORRY.
THIS WHOLE YEAR IS GOING DOWN THE DRAIN.
I DIDN'T EVEN ASK HER FOR ANYTHING.
SO WHY DID SHE HAVE TO APOLOGIZE?
SOR-RY...
WHY... DO I HAVE TO GET DUMPED BY A GIRL I DON'T EVEN LIKE..?
IT'LL BE FINE!
MAN, THIS SUCKS...
TH- THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN!
I'M GOING TO BE THAT POOR KID WHO LET IT GET TO HIS HEAD WHEN HE FOUND OUT THAT HIS CRUSH WAS IN THE SAME CLASS AND THEN INSTANTLY GOT DUMPED.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT ROLE WILL BE DICTATED TO ME IN CLASS?
But isn't Sono Kusaka incredible, getting continuously dumped by a guy she actually likes?
I couldn't stop whining about it
SUCKS
I still get pissed when I remember what happened.
THIS SUCKS
Fine my ass
KILL ME NOW...
!!
I SAID I'M SOOORRY!
shake shake

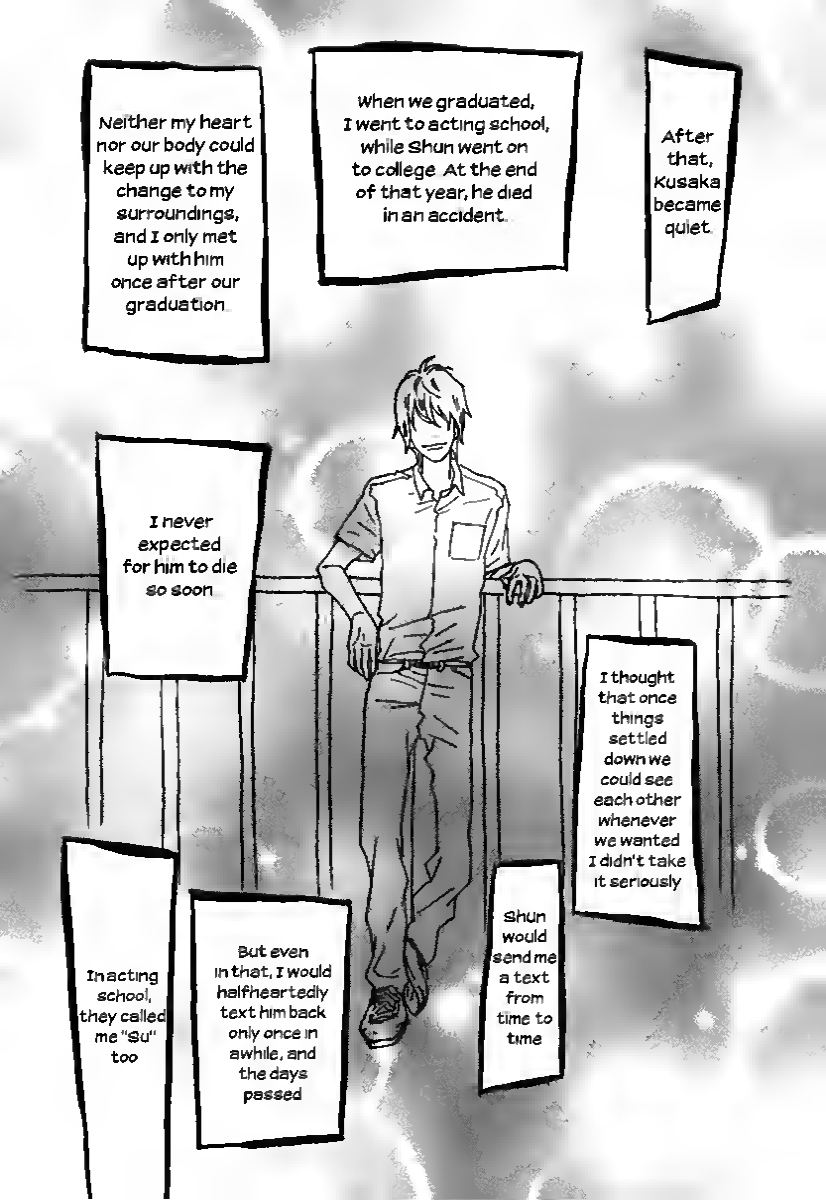
...
WE'RE IN...
DIF-FERENT CLASSES...
OH, I KNOW!
UM... UM!
OUR TRIP...
ON OUR FIELD TRIP...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WALK AROUND WITH ME?!
...
IT'LL JUST BE DURING YOUR FREE TIME...
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY A SHORT TIME!
DURING MY FREE TIME...
I WANT TO HAVE MY FREE-DOM.

...CUT IT OUT?
YOU... WILL ...
...JUST ONE...
MO-
THEN...
out...
out...
Shun's voice echoed across the walls of the hallway...
...and Kusaka was absent from the field trip

...JUST INCRE-DIBLE...
. THAT WILLPOWER IS...
BUT...
We were in a hotel room on our trip and unable to sleep
WOW.
DOES SHE LIVE IN A BUBBLE...?
...PUSH HER OWN FEELINGS ONTO SOMEONE ELSE LIKE THAT...?
HOW COULD SHE...
... SICK ...
IT MAKES ME...
I'M SO JEALOUS ...

...either to remove his mask of sympathy or out of compassion for the person getting rejected
Shun continued with being irritated The strategy he went with was done...
but even when everyone else became indifferent
Now they would barely exchange hellos and goodbyes...
The situation continued even in our third year.
Anyway we would do it
I'M GAY...
I'M GAY!
I'M GAY...
...AL-RIGHT

I LOVE YOU, SHUN!


Neither my heart nor our body could keep up with the change to my surroundings, and I only met up with him once after our graduation.
When we graduated, I went to acting school, while Shun went on to college. At the end of that year, he died in an accident.
After that, Kusaka became quiet.
I never expected for him to die so soon.
I thought that once things settled down we could see each other whenever we wanted. I didn't take it seriously.
In acting school, they called me "Su" too.
But even in that, I would halfheartedly text him back only once in awhile, and the days passed.
Shun would send me a text from time to time.

I remembered that the subject of his last text to me read, "The Mouth of Truth"
I didn't...
...reply

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME AT LEAST GIVE ME A SMILE, SU!
I'M ..BEING DUPED!
...ACTUALLY THE SINGING... ...CHILD'S ...TRANSFORMATION!!
THIS GUY IS..
HAVE YOU .. ...GROWN TALLER, SU?
YOU'RE TALLER THAN ME, HUH?
WHEN DID YOU STOP GROWING?
Is it because of your hair? Guess not.
22..?
AROUND THERE...
WOW
THEN MAYBE I'D HAVE SHOT UP A BIT TOO.
OR WAS THAT ALL I HAD IN ME?
MY DAD WAS PRETTY SHORT.

LET ME IN
...
BRR!
...PRETTY NORMAL?
IT'S...
WOW!
WOW!
.....
.....
Shun?
glance
glance
glance
Hm-hmm.
Hmm
jerk

No, it can't be This guy is
FOUND SOMETHING NEAT.
OH.
Shun, is that you?
YOU KNOW, I...
YOU WERE STUCK THERE WHEN YOU STARTED YOUR PART-TIME JOB.
BUT YOU HAD YOUR OWN TROUBLES TO WORRY ABOUT.
I THOUGHT MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE OR SOMETHING.
...WAS BORED IN COLLEGE.
YOU KNOW WHAT, SU?

THEN I FELT LIKE, WHATEVER, I SHOULD JUST COME OUT AND TELL YOU
THAT MADE ME FEEL BETTER.
I LEFT TOWN AND MADE OTHER "FRIENDS."
To Susumu Kiyotake
Sub The Mouth of Truth
BUT...
YOU NEVER REPLIED...
YOU SAW THE TEXT, DIDN'T YOU?
I WAS IN SHOCK...
OH, YEAH, I BET
I BET IT WAS HARD TO SWALLOW, HUH? SORRY.
NO...

Su, how are you?
Have you ever seen "Roman Holiday"?
UH-HUH
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD ANSWER
YEAH, I UNDERSTAND
LET SOME TIME PASS BEFORE I DID
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD
first I saw it, but only heard that it was called a classic.
..YOU'D BE DEAD DURING THAT TIME.
I NEVER KNEW
So like...
...that thing that showed up in it...
...called "The Mouth of Truth"...
OVER AND OVER AGAIN UNTIL YOU HEAR ME.
LIKE THAT GIRL
WELL, DUH
IF I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN, I WOULD HAVE MADE MYSELF CLEARER

BETTER NOT TO HAVE SAID ANYTHING.
NO
"UNTIL YOU HEAR ME."
"UNTIL YOU HEAR ME"
NOT IF IT RESULTS IN YOU FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE
"UNTIL YOU HEAR ME."
...SHUN!
IF I WENT ON LIVING WITHOUT KNOWING, THEN I'D FEEL REALLY STUPID!
REALLY?

I LOVE YOU, SU!

Sorry

Let me rest in peace while playing innocent

There's this thing called The Mouth of Truth, remember? You know how we were acting to fool Kusaka? If both of us were to stand and put our hands in... Sorry, but, it makes me laugh knowing that the only one who would get bitten would be you, Su. Ha ha ha! Actors are only playing a role, aren't they? I feel a little lost in life right now. Actually, I'm lying about that. <3 It's late. I've been drinking. See ya, Su. Good luck. Ahh, I said it. I feel so much better! Even though you might be all confused. (Haha.) Bye!

Sorry.